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LETTER DATED 12 MARCH 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to forward herewith a letter dated 12 March 1999, addressed to you by Mr. Aleksandar Dimitrov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia, concerning the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (see annex). I should be grateful if you would bring the contents of the letter to the attention of the Members of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Naste ČALOVSKI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

99-06875 (E) 120399

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Annex

Letter dated 12 March 1999 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia addressed to the Secretary-General

Allow me to present my compliments and to address you regarding the outcome of the Security Council meeting of 25 February 1999, when regretfully the stay of the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP) in the Republic of Macedonia was not extended.

Before asking for your views on this issue, I would like to reiterate that the Government of the Republic of Macedonia considers that the cooperation with UNPREDEP has been very successful thus far. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your persistent efforts for extension of the UNPREDEP mandate. I should like to convince you that the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia deeply appreciate your profound engagement in this regard.

As you have underlined in your report of 12 February 1999 (S/1999/161), the peace and stability of the Republic of Macedonia still depend on regional developments. Unfortunately, the reasons presented in my letter dated 29 January 1999 (S/1999/108), in which I requested the extension of the mandate, remain. Moreover, the presence of the United Nations in the region is more than a necessity owing to the present and future developments in Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

In this context, I hope that, in addition to our activities, your efforts as well as the efforts of the Security Council shall continue in order to secure an international presence in the region. I am convinced that the United Nations can play an important role in this respect. At the moment, we are attentively considering an arrangement possibly led by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, but with a clear United Nations connection, which could be endorsed or noted with appreciation by the Security Council, or it could be under some other umbrella.

All your suggestions related to the finding of an acceptable way of filling the security gap that occurred with the non-extension of the UNPREDEP mandate shall be highly appreciated and most carefully considered.

(Signed) Aleksandar DIMITROV